Poison Research Centres

3917. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA :
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Poison Research Centres researching in different poisons and venoms in the country;

(b) how many poisons have been researched in these Centres;

(c) whether the anti-venom for poisonous snake-bites is available all over the country;

(d) if so, how are these made available; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has funded a task force study on Venoms and Toxins at various Centres in 1990's in different geographical locations of the country. These research institutions are located at: 1. Jadavpur University, Kolkata, 2. University of Mysore, Mysore, 3. University of Kolkata 4. Haffkines Institute, Mumbai, 5. LTM Medical College/KEM, Mumbai. In addition to these the King's Institute of preventive and Social medicine, Chennai, IMS, BHU, Varanasi and Bawaskar Hospital and research centre Mahad, Maharashtra are also carrying out research studies in the area. Two poison research centres are located at AIMS, New Delhi and NIOH, Ahmedabad for disseminating information on poison and their anti-dotes.

(b) The work is mainly done on snakes and scorpiron venom.

(c) to (e) There is sufficient stock of Anti-venom serum for snake-bite to meet the requirement in the country. These sera are indigenously produced in public as well as private sector in the country.

Upgradation of post of DG

3918. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI:
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to upgrade the post of DG to Secretary of Health; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The posts of Secretary, Health and Director General of Health Services are in the same pay scale. The question of upgradation, therefore, does not arise.

Price control of life saving medicines

3919. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has passed an interim order asking Government to lay down the criteria to bring essential and life saving medicines under price control by May 2, 2003;

(b) whether Government have expressed the view that at present, the Ministry has no list of life saving drugs and is planning to bring down its list of essential drugs from 270 to 30; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps envisaged to satisfy the urgent needs of the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Supreme Court has directed to consider and formulate appropriate criteria for ensuring essential and life saving drugs not to fall out of price control.

(b) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare does not formulate a separate list of life saving drugs. However, 126 drugs, not manufactured in this country, are categorized as Life Saving Drugs by Department of Revenue for purposes of import *vide* Notification No. 26/2003—customs dated 1-3-2003 which are exempted from custom duty. This Ministry has not expressed any view that it is planning to bring down the list of essential drugs from 270 to 30.

(c) The issue is under inter-ministerial consultation for appropriate action.